

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Referring now to FIG. 2, the equipment interface layer 16 of the accounting process 14 includes various equipment interfaces 42a-42c which are, respectively, an interface 42a for the router/switch 12a, an interface 42b for the cable/modem head end 12b, and an interface 42c for the flow probe 12c. The equipment interface layer 16 also includes additional interfaces such as an interface 42d for a remote access concentrator 12d, an interface 42e for an Extranet switch 12e, an interface 42f for a DNS server 12f, and an interface 42g for a RADIUS server 12g. The equipment interface can have additional interfaces that can be specified, as new equipment is added. The interfaces 42a-42g can be developed by an interface toolkit 44. The interface toolkit 44 permits a user to construct a new equipment interface type to couple the accounting process 14 to a new equipment source type.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- In this case of the host connected to the port, or a router or some other device being connected to the port, there is no other connection that the host, router or other device is aware of other than the entire network. This is an example of a "connectionless oriented" protocol. A data collector 52 can be disposed in the network in a path between the entities "A" and "B", such that the data collector 52 monitors some of the packets that comprise a flow between "A" and "B." As a single point monitor, the data collector 52 has no concept that there are two ends communicating. The data collector 52 identifies these entities "A" and "B" in various NARs produced by the data collector 52. At a later stage in the processing, either in the data collector 52 or elsewhere in the accounting process 14 the NARs are correlated so that the NARs or some aggregated NAR produced by the data collector 52 or the rest of the accounting process 14 can be associated with the accountable entities "A" and "B" to thus identify a connection between entities "A" and "B."--

In the claims:

Please amend claims 3-5, as follows: